



Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by remote participation.

Present: Ann LeRoy, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, John Pickle, Wendy Richter, Emily Sullivan, David White.

Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictis.

1. Review/approve Minutes of April 23, 2020

The Minutes of April 23, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved by all members present.

2. OSC Administration/Communications

- a. The announcement remains posted on the Town website to fill vacancies on the Committee.
- b. Ann suggested possible new information for the OSC webpage: a walking route map developed by a resident called *Circumnavigate Arlington* and a pdf of the book *Walking the Open Spaces of Arlington, Massachusetts* written in the 1990s by Adaela Klapper McLaughlin. David mentioned that the Arlington Great Meadows and the old Arlington Reservoir websites contain historical information that might also be of interest. Emily will update the web page when time allows.
- c. Brian reported that he has posted the updates he has received so far for the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces story map.
- d. Wendy reported that she has been posting to the OSC Facebook account and requested that members share more photos for her to use.
- e. Emily reported that she has received Ethics, Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest materials from Brian, David and Elisabeth. Receipt of Wendy's materials needed to be confirmed. Ann will mail in her certificate.

3. Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces

Ann reported that the Take A Walk maps were featured on the Arlington Land Trust e-newsletter and had been popular with their members. Unfortunately, one person on Crescent Hill Avenue was unhappy that people had been encouraged to walk on her street and complained to Ann and the Town Manager. Ann responded to the resident and forwarded the correspondence to Emily, David and Leslie Mayer of the Park & Recreation Commission, who also lives on Crescent Hill Ave.

4. Picture Post

John reported that he had been in touch with Elisabeth about updating the Picture Post signage and was planning to procure the materials needed for the posts in the next week. Emily mentioned that the paperwork window for the current fiscal year's budget had closed and encouraged John to wait until July to make the purchases.

5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)

- a. Ann reported that she had been contacted by the Community Preservation Committee Chair regarding the budgetary and scheduling flexibility of the Open Space Plan. (Opportunities for cuts and delays in funding are being investigated due to projected shortfalls in state and local revenue resulting from COVID-19 state of emergency.) After reviewing the project's constraints with Emily, concerns were raised that delay could cause schedule fulfillment problems. The hope is that the Open Space Plan will be included as submitted in the CPA budget for June Town Meeting approval.
- b. The current schedule calls for the Request for Proposals for consultant work on the Open Space Plan to go out in September.
- c. The Revised Arlington Open Space Plan is required to be submitted to the Division of Conservation Services by May 2022.
- d. Emily reported that she has completed setting up the structure and transferring the project files onto Google Drive. She has also designated email addresses for Committee member access. Files are now set up to hold media as well as documents, and it's expected that it will be used to share drafts of the Open Space Plan while under development.

6. Updates: CPA/CDBG projects

- a. Ann reported that there will be an announcement after June 1 regarding the reopening of the town's open spaces. The beach and pump house renovations at the Arlington Reservoir are nearly complete, the water level is being raised and the beach could be open this summer. There is no word yet on the pathway upgrade pilot project, but possibly this summer. Emily reported that Joe Connelly will return to Arlington as the recreation director.
- b. Emily reported that Phase 3 design is underway for the Wellington Park project. An online public meeting was held on April 22 and another will be scheduled in June. The Park & Recreation Commission has been updated on the project, with Don Vitters and Jen Rothenberg providing feedback. The option with fewer pathways has been selected and will be presented at the next public meeting.

7. Other News and Reports

- a. Emily reported that she emailed the comments from the Envision Arlington annual town survey generated by the open space questions to Committee members. She is currently working with Senior Planner Kelly Lynema to analyze the survey results, which will inform the Open Space Plan update.
- b. David reported that demolition has begun at the housing development in Lexington adjacent to Arlington's Great Meadows. Access at this location is temporarily closed, but other access points will remain open during construction.

- c. The Arlington Reservoir Plant Survey and Management Plan contract has been awarded to SOLitude, which also does annual water chestnut removal. Work is expected in June or July.
- d. Wendy reported that she missed the online seminar she planned to attend for the Massachusetts Open Space Conference in April. The seminar was taped and will be available, so she plans to review it when time permits.
- e. Ann reported that information from the current survey for the Sustainable Transportation Plan could be relevant to the Open Space Plan, and that the Shared Streets pilot project in East Arlington had been completed.
- f. Emily reported that the applicant for the Mugar project had submitted materials to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but that they had not yet been released. The review process is expected to begin in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Submitted by
Elisabeth Carr-Jones